

II. Remarks In Response to the Office Action

A. General Remarks

Claims 6, 44-51, and 76-95 were pending in the application prior to this Reply. Claims 46, 80, 87, and 94 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 6, 44-45, 47-51, and 76-79, 81-86, 88-93, and 95 are pending in the application.

This Reply is being filed within the two-month period from the mailing date of 22 February 2007 of the Final Office Action. Furthermore, this Reply amends the claims and places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, this Reply should be entered and considered pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Final Office Action, claims 46-47, 49, 80-81, 87-88, and 94-95 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In response, Assignee has amended the claims as follows:

- Independent claim 6 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 46 (now cancelled) so that independent claims 6 and dependent claims 44-45, 47-51 are now allowable.
- Independent claim 76 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 80 (now cancelled) so that independent claims 76 and dependent claims 77-79 and 81 are now allowable.
- Independent claim 82 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 87 (now cancelled) so that independent claims 82 and dependent claims 83-86 and 88 are now allowable.
- Independent claim 89 has been amended to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 94 (now cancelled) so that independent claims 89 and dependent claims 89-93 and 95 are now allowable.

With these amendments, all pending claims 6, 44-45, 47-51, and 76-79, 81-86, 88-93, and 95 are allowable, and Assignee respectfully requests a notice of allowance as the next paper from the Office.

C. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 6 and 44-45, 48, 50-51, 76-79, and 89-93 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Huang (US 5,632,553). As noted above, independent claims 6, 76, and 89 have been amended to respectively include limitations from allowable claims 46, 80, and 94. Consequently, claims 6 and 44-45, 48, 50-51, 76-79, and 89-93 are now allowable, and Assignee respectfully requests an indication of their allowance in the next paper from the Office.

D. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 82-86 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Huang (US 5,632,553) in view of Shen (US 5,772,315). As noted above, independent claim 82 has been amended to include limitations from allowable claim 87. Consequently, claims 82-86 are now allowable, and Assignee respectfully requests an indication of their allowance in the next paper from the Office.

E. Conclusion

The response does not add any additional independent claims or any additional total claims beyond which a fee has already been paid. Therefore, no fee is believed due. Should any fees be required for any reason, the undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 501922, referencing order no. 175-0002US.

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To facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, Assignee respectfully requests that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion, reconsideration, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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